

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HEW-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /052 W

----- 005950

P R 160710Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL MILAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4868

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS MILAN 1803

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:IBIO, OTRA, IT

SUBJECT: DR. ALAN POLANDS VISIT TO MILAN

1. SUMMARY DR. ALAN POLAND, UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER ARRIVED IN MILAN FROM ROME AUGUST 12. HE CONFERRED WITH MARIO NEGR INSTITUTE SCIENTISTS, ATTENDED MEETING OF NEWLY FORMED REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON SEVESO, AND EXAMINED SEVESO VICTIMS, HE WAS HIGHLY IMPRESSED WITH QUALITY OF MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC WORK, PARTICULARLY THAT DONE AT MARIO NEGRI. POLAND'S HOSTS GAVE HIM LIBERAL PRESS EXPOSURE. RESULTING ARTICLES WERE ACCURATE AND POLAND INTENDS TO BE IN WASHINGTON FOR DEBRIEFING CONSTRUCTIVE AUGUST 16. END SUMMARY.

2. DR. POLAND SPENT THREE WORKING DAYS IN MILAN. AN AUGUST 12, HE CONFERRED WITH MARIO NEGRI INSTITUTE SCIENTISTS AND SPOKE WITH PRESS FOLLOWING DAY HE SPENT MORE TIME AT MARIO NEGRI, FOUND HIMSELF IN EVEN GREATER DEMAND BY JOURNALISTS, AND, IN EVENING, ATTENDED MEETING OF NEWLY FORMED REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON SEVESO PROBLEM CHAIRED BY ASSESSORE FOR HEALTH VITTORIO RIVOLTA. THIRD DAY (SATURDAY) POLAND VISITED ASPEDALE MAGGIORE AND EXAMINED SIX CHILDREN AFFECTED BY TCDD. HE RETURNED SUNDAY TO US AND WILL BE IN WASHINGTON FOR MONDAY FOR DEBRIEFING.

3. POLAND SAID HE WAS EXTREMELY IMPRESSED BY SPEED AND DEDICATION THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC WORK DONE IN SEVESO AREA AND MILAN, PARTICULARLY BY MARIO NEGRI INSTITUTE. HE SAID SOME 10,000 BLOOD AND URINE SAMPLES FROM 1500-2000 PEOPLE HAVE

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BEEN ANALYZED AND RESULTS COMPUTERIZED. SO THAT SCIENTISTS CAN,

FOR EXAMPLE, TELL INSTANTLY WILL UP RESULTS ON STREET BY STREET BASIS.

MOREOVER, MAPS HAVE BEEN MADE SHOWING EXACT LOCATIONS OF HUMAN AND ANIMALS WHOSE TESTS WERE POSITIVE. DATA BASE FOR DEALING WITH PROBLEM , THEREFORE IS IN HIGH STATE OF ELABORATION.

4. POLAND WAS OBJECT OF MUCH PRESS ATTENTION IN MILAN. IL GEORNALE BILLED HIM AS "WORLD'S FOREMOST EXPERT ON DIOXIN" CHARACTERIZATION HE PROMPTLY DOWNPLAYED. BOTH GIORNALE AND CORRIERE CARRIED INST-UCTIVE AND BALANCE STORIES. POLAND MADE SEVERAL EXCELLENT POINTS THEREIN. HE EXPLAINED , FOR EXAMPLE, THAT NO ONE SETS OUT TO MANU-FACTURE TCDD BUT RATHER IS CREATED DURING CHEMICAL PROCESS WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO MAKE TRICHLOROPHENOL. NOR, HE SAID, HAS TCDD EVER BEEN SERIOUSLY CONSIDER FOR USE IN WARTIME. AT SAME TIME, POLAND DID NOT LET HIMSELF BE DRAWN IN TO CONTRO-VERSIES OUTSIDE HIS FIELD OF COMPETENCE.

5. POLAND INTENDS TO BE IN WASHINGTON MONDAY AUGUST 16, FOR DE-BRIEFINGS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, MEDICAL FACILITIES, MEDICAL RESEARCH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MILAN01803
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760313-0977
From: MILAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760850/aaaabrpa.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <21 JAN 2005 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DR. ALAN POLANDS VISIT TO MILAN
TAGS: TBIO, OTRA, IT, US, MARIO NEGR INSTITUTE, (POLANDS, ALAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006